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would suggest that you cause to be issued the following instructions to the surgeons of your vessels:

(1) All the steerage, and those of the cabin who have been exposed to the infection, should be vaccinated at the time of embarkation or as soon thereafter as is practicable.

(2) To revaccinate on the 6th day all those who show no evidence of a successful vaccination.

(3) In order to insure the best results, only glycerinated vaccine virus should be used.

(4) That the crews of the vessels be vaccinated.

Trusting that the above scheme will meet with your approval and it may be practicable to carry it out, I am,

Respectfully,

J. J. KINYOUN,  
*Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S., Quarantine Officer.*

STEAMSHIP COMPANIES AND TRANSPORT SERVICE, *San Francisco, Cal.*

*Smallpox in Washington, D. C.*

WASHINGTON, D. C., *December 28, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that 1 patient was discharged from the smallpox hospital to-day, cured. No new cases having been discovered, there are, therefore, 5 cases of smallpox, all confined to the hospital.

Respectfully,

H. C. McLEAN,  
*Acting Health Officer.*

*Smallpox in Indian Territory.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, D. C., December 27, 1899.*

SIR: The Department is in receipt of your communication of the 18th instant, inviting its attention to a copy of a letter inclosed therewith which has been received by the Surgeon-General of the Marine-Hospital Service from the State health officer of Texas, and you request "information as to what steps, if any, are taken by your Department in the Indian Territory to prevent the spread of smallpox."

In reply, you are advised that on the 18th instant the Commissioner of Indian Affairs transmitted to the Department copies of letters from the United States Indian inspector for the Indian Territory, with copies of letters from the Indian agent at Union Agency, Ind. T., to the inspector, and letter of instructions to the medical board of the Choctaw Nation by the principal chief thereof, and recommending that Congress be requested to appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be disbursed under the direction and personal supervision of the United States Indian inspector for the Indian Territory for the purpose of stamping out smallpox among the white people in the Indian Territory. Said recommendation was approved by the Department, and an item submitted through your Department to be embodied in the urgency deficiency bill making said appropriation.

The Choctaw Nation has appropriated the sum of \$10,000 for the purpose of eradicating said disease from the Indian citizens of said nation.

A copy of said communication from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, together with copies of the letters referred to therein, is inclosed herewith for your information.

Respectfully,

THOS. RYAN,  
*Acting Secretary.*

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

[Inclosure.]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, D. C., December 18, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith copies of letters from the United States Indian inspector for the Indian Territory, together with letter from the Indian agent at Union Agency, Ind. T., to the inspector, and letters of instruction to the medical board of the Choctaw Nation, by Hon. Green McCurtain, principal chief.

The inspector states that smallpox was found some time ago to exist among white men employed in the coal mines near South McAlester, in the Choctaw Nation; also in the town of Atoka. The authorities of said nation were at that time consulted, and as their tribal government still exists, they advised the inspector that they were desirous and able to take necessary precautions to prevent a further spread of the disease in their own country.

The Choctaw board of health have the matter in charge, in said nation, and the inspector states that he has cooperated with them in providing necessary police assistance, and otherwise assisted them in enforcing orders which they (the medical board) have issued from time to time.

At the suggestion of the inspector, the Choctaw council appropriated \$10,000 for the purpose of vaccination *among their own citizens* and preventing a further spread of the disease among their own people.

The principal chief, in letter to the board of health dated November 7, states:

"You will understand that the purport and intention of the act of council appropriating a certain sum to be used by and at the instance of your board in smallpox cases, was for the protection of citizens of the Choctaw Nation, and not noncitizens. I would suggest that in all your ministrations and acts of precaution against the disease you make no contracts or promises for the payment of any of this money except for the use and benefit of Choctaw citizens. In the mining camps where the infection is greatest you will observe that there are very few Choctaws afflicted, and in nearly all of them it is white people that have the disease. It would be well for you to always ascertain whether or not there are any Choctaws afflicted before authorizing the payment of any money from the aforesaid appropriation.

"It is the charge of the United States Government to take care of its own citizens; this Nation to take care of the Choctaws."

Again, under date of November 10, in his letter to the medical board, he states:

"The intention of this appropriation is for the protection of the citizens of the Nation, and can not be properly applied for the protection of others than Choctaw citizens. As to the propriety of handling this fund for the benefit of the Choctaw citizens—that is a matter trusted to your skilled and better judgment. Primarily, the Choctaw people are not responsible for the prevalence of this epidemic now among us; but the question of responsibility is waived in the effort to check the ravages of the disease and prevent its further spread.

"However, since the infection is greater among the mining class and noncitizen element than among the Choctaw people, it would not be right and just to shift the expense of all quarantine measures and other precautionary incidentals on to the Choctaw government, except as in case of protection to the Choctaws. You should therefore, in providing quarantine, detention camp, and guard service, be careful to note whether or not any Choctaw citizens are beneficiaries of such precaution; and if not, no part of the fund appropriated by the act of council referred to should be obligated for such expenses. Where the infection is confined to mining camps at which no Choctaw citizens are present, you should, if your services are needed there, inform the companies that the funds on which you are operating are not available for any other purpose than that of protecting citizens of the Choctaw Nation against the smallpox disease, and that if your services are required by them they should make provision for the payment of all expenses attached. Should the companies refuse to bear such expenses, it would be well for you to call the attention of the United States Indian agent to the matter and state to him that you have no available funds for such cases and ask him to tender the aid of the Department."

The United States Indian agent, under date of November 23, states that he has visited South McAlester, and finds that smallpox exists in South McAlester, Alderson, Hartshorne, Mine No. 2 at Wilburton, Calvin, and Atoka, all in the Choctaw Nation; that one central camp has been established for the different mining towns about one and a half miles east of Alderson, Ind. T., in which cases from Hartshorne, Alderson,

Mine No. 2, Krebs, and South McAlester are detained ; that the present number in detention camp is something over 200.

The total number of cases at the different camps in the Choctaw Nation is about 350, and the number of patients actually sick and down with the disease is 75 or 80, and the balance detained in camp were actually exposed.

The population of the country contiguous to the towns in which smallpox exists numbers something near 25,000 persons, and it would be impossible to determine the number exposed.

The agent states that the disease first made its appearance last June, and the physicians in charge at the different mining camps declared it was some other disease, and the town and coal companies endeavored to keep the matter from the public, and in this way the disease gained a firm hold. The agent also states that Captain Ellis, the head of the agency police force, has rendered signal service, working night and day in the endeavor to prevent the spread of the disease and to stamp it out ; that the Choctaw medical board and Captain Ellis have worked harmoniously together, but that the disease is now spreading to such an alarming extent that he feels his inability to cope with it alone, and must have assistance at the earliest practicable date.

It is also seen from the inclosed correspondence that, with the exception of the cases at Atoka and South McAlester, all have been noncitizens of the Choctaw Nation.

The medical board, in their letter to the United States Indian agent, state that in their opinion it will cost not less than \$50,000 to stamp out the disease among the noncitizens, and as a great deal of indebtedness has already been incurred, largely for the care of noncitizens, which the governor of the Choctaw Nation says will not be paid by the nation, and the towns and coal companies will not assist (having refused the medical board and Captain Ellis' assistance); that many of the noncitizens are too poor and depend entirely upon their labor for the support of their families, and as cold weather advances the spread of the disease is more rapid, and there being no funds at the disposal of the office to combat it, I most respectfully ask that the matter be referred to Congress with the request that an appropriation of \$50,000 be made for the purpose of stamping out the disease among the white people in the Indian Territory, to be disbursed under the direction and personal supervision of the United States Indian inspector for Indian Territory.

It might be well to state that as all of the Choctaw funds (i. e., "Fulfilling treaty with Choctaws," "Interest on Choctaw general fund," "Interest on Choctaw orphan fund," "Interest on Choctaw school fund"), with the exception of "Indian moneys, proceeds of labor, Choctaw royalties," are disbursed by the Treasurer of the Choctaw Nation and said "Indian moneys" are designated for a specific purpose, it will be seen that no funds exist for stamping out the disease ; hence the necessity of requesting an appropriation from Congress.

An item to carry out this recommendation will be incorporated in the urgency deficiency bill about to be presented to the Department which will be accompanied by a copy of this letter.

Respectfully,

W. A. JONES,  
*Commissioner.*

HON. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.